–28–

ABSTRACT
(Fig. 2)

In the preferred embodiment, the invention provides a modified Shortest Path First routing
5   algorithm for use in a heterogeneous network. The routing algorithm is modified to identify bi-lingual network nodes as it calculates shortest paths. Once a node has been identified as bi-lingual, this information is carried over into subsequent path entries created by the routing algorithm. This arrangement reduces the computational burden on the routing algorithm when identifying bi-lingual routers. The algorithm may be modified to enable the use of an
10   encapsulation capability identifier to indicate the encapsulation capability of bi-lingual routers, and the algorithm may be modified to use the encapsulation capability identifier in the calculation of the shortest paths.